

Meetings set on new park

Two Tulelake Basin sites included in new WWII monument

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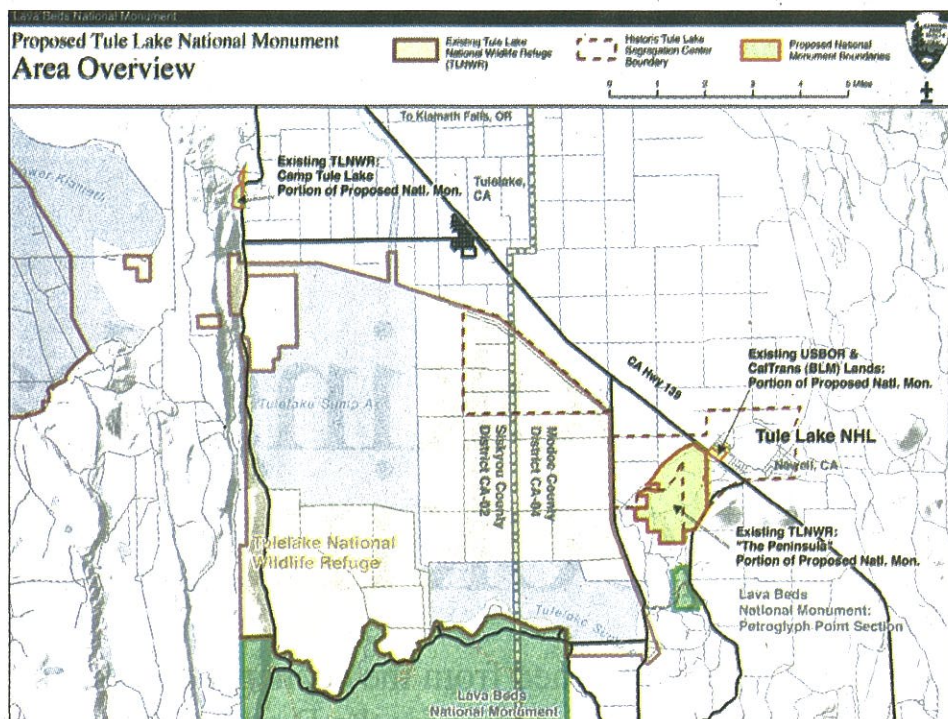
TULELAKE — Public meetings to discuss the future of two Tulelake Basin sites included as part of the newly created World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument will likely be scheduled early this year.

A small portion of the former Tule Lake Relocation-Segregation Center near Newell and the former Tulelake CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) Camp were named part of the park created by an executive order from President Bush in December.

Management

The Basin sites will be co-managed by Lava Beds National Monument Superintendent Dave Kruse and Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges Complex manager Ron Cole.

Although plans are being formulated, he and Kruse said they expect the public sessions will focus on upcoming steps to manage and interpret the sites and get ideas on how people want to see



Map courtesy of the National Park Service

A map shows various Tule Lake park sites. Two Tulelake Basin sites are part of the newly created World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

the sites managed. Both emphasize there are no plans to condemn and take private property.

"I think there's going to be ample opportunities for the public to express their ideas and thoughts," Cole said.

At present, the Basin portion of the park includes a small parcel of land where the former CCC camp is located, 18 acres of Bureau of Reclamation land off Highway 139 in Newell and about 1,200 acres of the Pen-

insula. Another 15 acres adjacent to the BOR land, which includes the historically significant jail, will eventually be transferred to the federal government.

"There is enough federal land to tell the story. It's a postage stamp parcel, but it's enough," Kruse said.

Immediate plans include hiring a five-month seasonal employee in May to give programs, walks and help create a Web site.

The person will work in Tulelake, possibly at the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds, which already has a barracks, guard station and other camp items as part of its museum.

"It would be a very good fit for the fair," said fair CEO Dave Dillabo, who said the fair board will vote on the proposal later this month. "It will draw a lot more attention to the museum and to the fairgrounds."

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New national monument

About the internment camp

The Tule Lake Detention-Relocation Center operated from 1942 to 1945 and was the largest and most controversial of 10 camps. More than 18,000 Japanese Americans, most of them American citizens, were held at Tule Lake. The camp covered more than 7,400 acres.

Camp Tulelake, a former CCC camp, held Japanese Americans until Tule Lake opened. It later housed Italian and German prisoners of war.

"The logic is to tell a large story and more

than a negative story, a larger home-front story," said Dave Kruse, Lava Beds National Monument superintendent, of including the two sites.

During upcoming public hearings, ideas of what to include will be discussed, including the possible inclusion of the Mitchell Monument near Bly, the only place on the continental U.S. where Americans were killed by an enemy attack. A remnant barracks from the camp and a new barracks built to Army specifications are other possibilities.

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Start-up funding is limited this year

Although this year's start-up funding is limited, some of that money will be used to develop signs and create brochures.

"We're anticipating

a low budget, so we will need ideas," Kruse said.

Cole and Kruse hope money for a general management plan will be in the 2010 budget.

The Peninsula part of monument

The largest land area for the Tulelake Basin portion of the newly declared World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument will be 21 acres of the Peninsula, also known as Castle Rock for its crenellated rock formation. When Tule Lake was a detention center, Japanese Americans were allowed to hike from the center and climb the Pen-

insula.

For several decades, the Peninsula has been managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"This is going to be a nice opportunity to interpret wildlife — owls, eagles, hawks and falcons," said Ron Cole, manager of the Klamath Basin Wildlife Refuges Complex.